

**MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE ALDCLIFFE ROAD, MEETING held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb.2014**

**Present:** Dave Brookes, Peter Callingham, Gillian Allen, Martin Luke, Geoff Easton.

**1. Apologies:** Jane & Mike Swan, Kathy Barton, Sheila Bliss.

**2. Minutes of last Meeting:** minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 were approved with no matters arising. (There was no meeting held in January 2014).

**3. Recent developments:** the 30 year lease of the Triangle site to the Fairfield Association has now been registered with the Land Registry. The F.A.'s solicitors (JWK Solicitors) are keeping the original lease with Dave having a digital copy.

**4. Site investigation:** further exposing of drainage pipes by the former toilet at yesterday's volunteer session failed to clarify where it had drained to but were dug out as no longer required. The base of the toilet and some adjoining concrete was broken up and removed with more still to do (which may or may not reveal a cesspit / soakaway). A further tree stump was also removed.

**5. Workshop building:** we still need to find someone to finish a small amount of pointing and to do the rendering to the sides of the new single door. After some discussion it was agreed that the building should be cleared out (bar render materials which need to be kept dry) by moving old bricks, steel sheeting, etc. into the old corner buildings which are unlikely to be demolished before autumn. This would allow a proper cleaning of the workshop, making it suitable for future uses.

**6. Site works: Planning:** the conditions to the Change of Use planning approval granted in November 2013 state that a detailed proposals plan needs to be submitted and agreed by the city planning department before any development, or tree work, can take place. Peter sent an email in mid-December (and again in mid-Jan.) asking if advance approval could be given for a noticeboard (for which we have a grant) by the entrance to the canal towpath and for removal of a sycamore on the buttress of the end retaining wall, but has received no reply.

[On 6 Feb. Dave spoke to the planning officer concerned who had no record of the above email but said that the noticeboard (and a solar panel) were included in the approval (subject to details?). Peter to re-send email; Dave to clarify how these approvals to be given].

**7. Design, funding & quotes:** We are still hoping to use Georgina Peacock to do our detailed proposals plan for the Triangle to submit to the Planning Department for their approval and agreement to the work going ahead. Dave is applying to United Utilities community fund for the cost of this. Peter to apply to Green Partnerships for up to £500 for tools and equipment. In the meantime Dave will be

seeking quotes for the demolition of the redundant corner buildings and works to towpath wall, with a view to an Awards for All grant application as soon as detailed plans approved. (No-one was present to report on investigations into Community Bread Ovens, their cost or suitability for the Triangle).

**8. Triangle Events 2014:** It was felt we should aim to hold a late Spring (possibly Sat. 17 May to avoid the Bank Holiday weekend / school half-term) and a late Summer event to publicise progress on the Triangle and future detailed plans, as well as to raise further funds. (Neither event to clash with Fairfield Association events or activities). Various themes and activities were discussed including use of the workshop building, along with refreshments (BBQ? cake stall and drinks), games and music. The idea of a 'treasure hunt' in the local area, starting and finishing at the Triangle (with prizes?) was suggested and should be given further consideration. Other ideas welcome for next meeting.

**9. Volunteer sessions:** Dave to arrange another date before the next monthly meeting. Tasks to include: clearing out workshop (bar render materials) by moving items to keep into the corner buildings, taking nails out of rafters, removing render that was on back wall of toilet, break up more concrete beyond wooden structure adjoining workshop, tackle stumps on buttress to end wall to prevent re-growth.

**10. Any other business:** Dave had received a letter from the Lancaster Canal Trust requesting we provide their information leaflet at the Triangle site for walkers / passers-by. This seems to have been prompted by the Royal Geographical Society displaying self-guided walks on their website, one of which passes the Triangle along the towpath. It was felt we are not in a position to do this, not yet having a noticeboard or leaflet dispenser. Dave to send a reply.

**11. Date of next Meeting:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 at 7.30pm, upstairs in the Robert Gillow pub. All welcome.